

Blood Lead Level Screening Plan West Virginia Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Introduction:

The West Virginia Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) developed the lead screening plan targeting resources to impact the largest number of children zero (0) to seventy-two (72) months of age at high risk for lead poisoning. Children are screened in provider facilities such as community health centers, private practitioner offices, federally qualified health centers, local health departments, etc. Blood lead results are reported by laboratories and clinics to the West Virginia Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Surveillance Program. Providers are required to report all blood lead levels with complete demographic information. The screening rate by county is tracked and reported to providers in high risk counties. Additional screening activities will be planned according to evaluation results from high risk counties and groups.

Senate Bill 216 was passed in January of 2002 and requires systematic screening of children for early identification and prevention of lead poisoning in children zero (0) to seventy-two (72) months of age (see appendix). The rules and regulations specific to this legislation were passed in April of 2004 (see appendix).

Current surveillance information from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2003 was used to identify those West Virginia counties at high risk for childhood lead poisoning. Medicaid-eligible and CHIP-eligible children are considered to be high risk groups for childhood lead poisoning. The following is a detailed explanation of the screening plan.

- All children zero (0) to seventy-two (72) months of age need to be screened at one (1) year and again at two (2) years of age using a risk assessment. Children thirty-six (36) to seventy-two (72) months of age should also be screened if they have not been screened previously.
- The risk assessment needs to be recorded in each child's medical record at the physician's office and include the date of screening, the child's complete address, the location where the screening was conducted and the name of the physician.
- If a child is determined to be at risk for lead poisoning, the health care provider should perform or authorize a blood test to identify the blood lead level.
- For best results, an initial elevated blood lead level of ≥ 10 mcg/dl should be confirmed with a venous blood specimen.
- A questionnaire for risk assessment is attached to this document as well as a lead risk assessment form utilized by the WV HealthCheck Program (see appendix).
- Medicaid requires that all Medicaid-eligible children zero (0) to seventy-two (72) months of age receive blood lead testing at twelve (12) months and twenty-four (24) months of age regardless of the results of the lead risk assessment or previous test results.
- If a Medicaid-eligible child has not been tested by thirty-six (36) to seventy-two (72) months

of age, a blood lead test is required regardless of negative risk assessments.

- Based on a combination of current surveillance information from Fiscal Year 2001 to Fiscal Year 2003 and risk predictions, eight (8) counties were selected for targeted screening and primary prevention activities. These eight (8) counties include Cabell, Wood, Berkeley, Wetzel, Raleigh, Ohio, Harrison and Marion. Kanawha County was also selected for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2005 grant due to the fact that current screening information demonstrated that this county has the greatest percentage of children \geq six (6) years of age in West Virginia and the highest number of elevated blood lead levels.

Blood Lead Level Screening Education to Public and Providers:

- In order to provide education about State-wide lead screening and implement the screening plan effectively, the WV CLPPP will continue the practice of collaborative efforts with the Advisory Committee's assistance to determine program direction. Booth presentations and screening activities will be performed in the nine (9) high risk counties. Public and provider education on the importance of screening will be provided in these counties by our Division Educator, as well as through various State and local organizations such as the HealthCheck Program, the Children's Special Care Needs Program, the WV SIDS Prevention Program, Automated Health System, the CHIP Outreach Program, WV Poison Control Center, the Office of Environmental Health Services, Managed Care organizations such as Care Link,

local health departments, the WV Immunization Program, Family Resource Networks, the Resource and Referral Network, the WIC Program, etc.

The State-wide targeted screening plan will be evaluated in the first quarter of the following Fiscal year and presented to the CLPPP Advisory Committee for comments and suggestions.